



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Anhydrous ammonia safety goal of EPA grant to Kansas Department of Agriculture

Pesticide and fertilizer program staff will facilitate compliance with RMP regulations.

TOPEKA – Improved safety and compliance are the goals of an EPA grant awarded to the Kansas Department of Agriculture’s pesticide and fertilizer program for risk management plan inspections at anhydrous ammonia facilities.

“Our goal is to facilitate compliance with EPA regulations and to answer questions about those regulations,” said Gary Meyer, manager of the pesticide and fertilizer program.

Meyer said program staff will begin visiting facilities in October in what is expected to be a year-long project. During those visits, KDA staff will:

- Share information about chemical safety practices;
- Promote and heighten awareness of the need for safety at anhydrous ammonia facilities and in the communities where chemicals are located;
- Help build cooperation among facilities, government agencies and others;

Section 112(r) of the Clean Air Act includes an accidental release prevention requirement that means certain anhydrous ammonia facilities must have risk management plans. A risk management plan must include a hazard assessment, a prevention program and an emergency response plan.

Chemical accident prevention involves:

- Working with facilities to improve their chemical safety management program;
- Encouraging facilities to coordinate risk reduction activities with local emergency response personnel, even as they enhance emergency preparedness for response to possible accidents.

Industry has the expertise to make sure that the elements of safe operation are brought together and managed day by day. The risk management program regulations are just one tool implementing agencies have to help facilities prevent chemical accidents.

Excluded from the requirement for a risk management plan are noncommercial facilities with less than 10,000 pounds of anhydrous ammonia storage, and those facilities are eligible for a certificate of exemption.

Questions about risk management plans and compliance assistance offered by the pesticide and fertilizer program should be directed to (785) 296-3786. Information also is available on the EPA website at

www.epa.gov/region07/programs/artd/toxics/arpp.html or www.epa.gov/ceppo.